WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AT THE PAVILLON COLOMBE

One of the titillating episodes in the first biography of F is the account of his visit to Edith Wharton in 1925. According to this version, F was so apprehensive on the way out as to drink himself into quite a state of hostility and truculence. Almost on his arrival, he attempted to shock Mrs. Wharton and her guests with the invention that he and his wife had lived two weeks in a Paris bordello. Attempting to be helpful and interested, Mrs. Wharton succeeded only in squelching F, who fled back to Paris and blubbered to his wife, "They *beat* me." This anecdote is based on the testimony of someone who wasn't there.

The FN has received a report from someone who was there—Theodore Chanler, the American composer. Mr. Chanler, whose mother knew Mrs. Wharton, arranged the meeting and went along with F. This witness reports that F was not drunk, but overawed by Mrs. Wharton's formal manner. F tried to make conversation by complimenting her, but she would not play along with him. The party went so badly that F finally asked permission to tell an anecdote about an American couple he knew who had mistakenly spent their first days in Paris in a brothel. Mrs. Wharton did ask him what they did there—apparently because she missed the point of the story.

Mr. Chanler's letter (to MJB, 4 Aug., 1959) places the blame on Mrs. Wharton:

"I cannot of course say whether or not he made the remark 'She beat me' on his return. But it seems most likely that this is someone's inven-

tion. On the way back to Paris he showed no sign of feeling squelched, or that the failure of the occasion was due to him rather than to Mrs. Wharton. Besides, he was never aggressive with her . . . He certainly did not look on the meeting as a contest in which he got worsted. Nothing was said about why Zelda didn't come with us, and I didn't ask. As for his drinking, well--I personally did not notice that he was actually drunk. He stopped maybe four or five times on the way out and probably had a slug of white wine. This might have amounted to less than a bottle in all. Gailland Lapsley (Mrs. Wharton's friend who was present) told her in answer to her inquiry 'Wasn't there something peculiar the matter with that young man?' that he *was* drunk. The incoherent story about the bordello was no doubt what made Lapsley think so. But Mrs. Wharton's unyielding formality and stiffness might have driven him to this desperate conversational measure even without the help of alcohol."

Mr. Chanler's letter adds an account of a similar meeting between Mrs. Wharton and William Gerhardi, the author of FUTILITY. Exasperated by her stiffness, Gerhardi advised her to "Take a third class railway ticket and 'go and look for God.' " Mrs. Wharton missed the point in this case too, and afterwards told the story with Gerhardi as the foil.

CINEMA NOTES

David O. Selznick is preparing a production of TITN. Jennifer Jones will play Nicole; Dick is up for grabs, but William Holden is in the running.

BI is being shot with Gregory Peck, Deborah Kerr, and an unidentified lad who falls into the Garden of Allah pool. The Garden of Allah, by the way, is being razed.

INDISPENSABLE

The plates of the VIKING PORTABLE F were used to print the INDISPENSABLE F, issued by the Book Society. Two printings of the INDISPENSABLE have been noted so far: that of 1949 (which may be the sheets of the 1945 Viking 2nd printing) and that of 1951.

ZELDA AND SCOTT: A Reactionary Note

The FN has long regarded with distaste the liberties taken with the author's wife. It is clearly impudent for writers who never knew her to refer to Mrs. Fitzgerald as "Zelda"--just plain "Zelda." It does not seem

to us that this is a mark of affection. Rather it appears to carry a sanctimonius snicker. To be sure, she was a glamorous, eccentric figure, but the tragedy more than balanced the frivolity. From all reports, Zelda Fitzgerald had great dignity and tolerated no liberties. There is no reason why improprieties should be condoned now.

The same familiarities have long been taken with Fitzgerald, of course, but we *were* startled when he turned up as "Scott" in a Ph. D. dissertation which presumably had been approved by a board of scholars.

F OUT OF PRINT

The following items are offered for sale to members of the society:
B&D–Burt, 1922, $3.00; Permabooks, 1951, $1.00
TITN–1st Bantam printing, 1950, $1.00
GG–1st Bantam printing, 1945 (cocktail cover), $1.50; 4th Bantam, 1951, $1.00

VEGETABLE

F's play was revived in the summer of 1954 and did not impress New England. Wally Cox starred in VEG, and the production was presented by Lee Falk and Al Capp.

ABBREVIATIONS

Our style of abbreviating titles has brought us a number of communications from readers–either annoyed or amused. We are willing to concede that our references to periodicals may be esoteric. In general, we have followed the list of abbreviations published annually in the April number of PMLA (PUBLICATION OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA)–and in the future we will conform more scrupulously.

The shortened forms of F's (Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald's) titles ought to require no explanation to readers of the FN (FITZGERALD NEWSLETTER) but, for the benefit of those who get confused now and then, here they are: AOAA = AFTERNOON OF AN AUTHOR; ASYM = ALL THE SAD YOUNG MEN; B&D = THE BEAUTIFUL AND DAMNED; CU = THE CRACK UP; GG = THE GREAT GATSBY; F&P = FLAPPERS AND PHILOSOPHERS; LT = THE LAST TYCOON; TITN = TENDER IS THE NIGHT; TJA = TALES OF THE

JAZZ AGE; TSOP = THIS SIDE OF PARADISE; VEG = THE VEGETABLE.

BI is Sheilah Graham's BELOVED INFIDEL.

CHECKLIST

Anon. "TITN," TLS, 31 July 1959, p. 448. Review of BI.

–. "Take a Bow: John Hall Wheelock," PUB WKLY, 7 Sept. 1959, pp. 29-30. Includes account of conference at which TSOP was accepted by Scribner.

Beach, S. SHAKESPEARE & CO., Harcourt, Brace, 1959. Little on F.

Bezanson, W. "F: Bedevilled Prince Charming," YOUNG REBEL IN AM. LIT., ed. C. Bode, Heinemann, 1959. Editorial on this: "Dissenters," TLS, 14 Aug. 1959, p. 471.

Clark, J. A. "The Love Song of F," ANTIC MUSE, ed. R. P. Falk, Grove, 1955–weak parody.

F. GG, Armed Services Edition #862.

DIAMOND AS BIG AS RITZ, Armed Services Edition #1043. Note: The FN is anxious to buy or trade for these two.

IL GRANDE GATSBY, trans. F. Pivano–"Medusa," 1950; "Il Bosco," 1958.

BELLI E DANNATI, trans. F. Pivano–Mondadori, 1954.

NATTEN AR LJUV, trans. A. Hagglund–Wahlstrom & Widstrand, Stockholm, 1952.

Furnas, J. C. "Speaking of Books," NYTBR, 16 Aug. 1959, p. 2. F and Charles M. Flandrau's HARVARD SKETCHES (Boston: Copeland & Day 1897).

Schulberg, B. "These for the Love of Zelda," SR, 22 Aug. 1959, p. 14. Review of F&P.

– & Breit, H. DISENCHANTED, Random, 1959–the play.

Toynbee, P. "Cinderella & the Ci-devant Prince," OBSERVER, 26 July 1959, p. 16–Review of BI.

Harvard Honors Theses:

Blankenmeyer, K. "Behind Gatsby," 1959.

Goldman, A. M. "Quests of F," 1957.

Solomon, H. E. "F: Faded Banner," 1950.

F IN PRINT

Scribner

TSOP, $3.95

F&P, $2.95

B&D, $4.50
GG, $3.50; Student's Edition, $1.25
TITN (revised standard version), $4.95
STORIES, ed. M. Cowley, $4.95
AOAA, $4.50
LT, $2.95

New Directions
CU, $1.45

Bodley Head
Bodley F (CU, LT, GG, stories), 20s
AOAA, 16s

BUYING GUIDE

The in-print list above is for English-language editions only. The best place for acquiring F translations is House of Books, Ltd., 18 E. 60th St., New York 22, N. Y.

Inquiries and material should be addressed to:
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